

A small and thin irregular pattern reader includes a prism having a detection surface on which a subject to be detected having an irregular pattern is put and an incident plane having a first angle of inclination relative to the detection surface and emitting a light reflected from the detection surface corresponding to incident light incident upon the incident plane; a first optical system having a light source producing light incident upon the incident plane of the prism with its optical axis substantially parallel to the detection prism and an optical axis substantially parallel to the detection surface; and a second optical system for transmitting light emitted from the prism to an image pick-up device.

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